

Torrance Herald

TWENTY-FIRST YEAR No. 31

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 1935

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CITY TO AWARD CONTRACTS FOR WELLS AND TANK TODAY

Special Meeting of City Council Called Upon Receipt of Check For \$125,416 From P. W. A. Yesterday

Upon receipt of funds from the Public Works Administration yesterday, Mayor Scott R. Ludlow called a special meeting of the city council for 4:30 p. m. today to award contracts for the immediate drilling of two water wells and the erection of an elevated pressure tank, first units to be undertaken in the development of a local water supply for the municipal water system.

A certified check for \$125,416.67, covering \$125,000 in payment of municipal water district bonds and \$416.67 for interest from July 1, was received yesterday afternoon by City Treasurer H. H. Dole and City Clerk A. H. Bartlett. The \$125,000 grant from the federal government will be sent direct from Washington. It is stated by PWA officials at Los Angeles.

Awarding of the contracts this afternoon is a foregone conclusion as the low bids as submitted in April have already been recommended by the city council and accepted by PWA officials. The Roscoe Moss Company of Los Angeles is to receive the contract for drilling two water wells at an approximate cost of \$21,000, depending on the depth necessary to secure a satisfactory water supply. The first well is to be completed before the second one is started. It is expected that about 60 days will be required to complete the first well.

Chicago Bridge & Iron Works is slated to receive the contract for constructing the elevated steel tank, tower and foundation. Its bid was \$26,265, and the work is to be completed in 160 days. As soon as the first well is completed, it is planned to push forward the work of awarding contracts for the installation of pumps, construction of a large low-level storage tank, and the extension of distributing mains. City Engineer Leonard stated, so that the entire improvement program for the municipal water system may be completed and in operation in about five months.

RING IS LOST

Irma Jahn, 109 Trolley Way, Venice, reported at the city police station this week, the loss of a diamond ring, valued at \$45.

Washington Ruling

To Be Asked On Question of City's Right to Collect License Fee

Departmental authorities at Washington, D. C., will probably be called upon for an opinion as to the right of the city of Torrance to require an out of town photographer to take out a city license in order to handle a certain type of business here. According to City Attorney Charles T. Rippey the city has that right, and as a result of his ruling Vernon M. Haden, San Pedro photographer, was called upon to pay for such a document.

The situation arose recently when the senior member of the firm of Hays & Hais, local photographers, appeared before the city council at its last meeting protesting against the practice of out of town firms coming into the city and operating without having complied with the city ordinance requiring the payment of a license.

Mr. Hays pointed out several instances, among them the one now under consideration. Haden was employed to make the progress subject every 30 days, of the new postoffice building. This is mandatory, and the pictures must be furnished until the building is 99 percent complete. Since the pictures are of a federal building under federal contract construction, Haden's contention is that he is exempt from paying a license tax or fee to the city, on the ground that no state, county or political subdivision has the right to tax government property.

The city contends that it has the right to require a license under its city ordinance of any person who comes into the city to transact certain classes of business, just as it taxes those citizens whose places of business are located here.

At any rate, the San Pedro photographer was required to pay for a six months license fee, and will take his case to the Washington authorities to settle the question. In case the opinion is adverse to him, the fee will stand, but if the authorities rule that the city had no right to require a license the sum will be refunded.

Meteoric Rise



Beverly and Billy Bemis, children of a wealthy Pacific Coast chain restaurant owner, whose dancing career has been nothing short of meteoric, have signed a contract to make a series of movie shorts. The San Francisco youths recently returned from a tour of Europe.

Recall Petitions Held Valid

Date for a recall election, affecting Mayor Charles A. Hale and Councilmen A. A. Bamford and Francis M. Sever, of Gardena, will be set at the next regular meeting of the Gardena city council, following a decision of Judge Clarence L. Kincaide of the superior court, who ruled that the recall petitions were sufficient.

A plea for a permanent injunction against holding such an election was denied.

J. C. Rex, local taxpayer, brought the suit for an injunction on the ground of insufficient signatures. Should a majority of the board be left in office after the election, appointments will be made to fill the vacancies. If there is no majority, or in case all three members are recalled, a second election to fill the vacancies will be called. Objection to the recall election was based on the cost to the taxpayers, which will be about \$350 for one election or double that sum if two have to be held.

Buxton Is Named As Chairman of Advisory Group

Formation of Council For Greater Knowledge of Tourist Business Launched

Formation of a Los Angeles county advisory council, in which every community in this area will be represented by their respective business, financial and civic leaders, was launched yesterday by the All-Year Club.

The work of the new group has been designed for the purpose of creating a greater knowledge and appreciation by the people of this county in behalf of the tourist business which today constitutes this area's second largest source of primary income.

Torrance, Compton, Gardena and Lomita will be represented on the council, respectively by B. C. Buxton, chairman; Judge Irving P. Austin, Dale Clanton and Charles Smith.

"Facts covering Southern California's tourist business and the work of the All-Year Club in generating this business through its national advertising campaigns, will be presented first hand to every community in this county by their representatives on this council," said Donald O'Melveny, president of Southern California's non-profit tourist bureau.

"In turn, these representatives will work through the regional directors on the board of the All-Year Club by presenting first hand information about their communities which will be used in the national advertising and publicity campaigns, in order that all of our tourist attractions and landmarks may be properly represented and featured."

Mrs. Kettler Dies In Los Angeles

Mrs. Amalia Kettler, widow of the late Emil Kettler, passed away Monday, July 29, at 2929 South Normandie. She was the mother of Mrs. Hulda Stoner, Mrs. Charles Roepke, Mrs. Anna Blanchard, Mrs. Hugh C. Marshall, Emil, Junior, Henry, John, Albert and William Kettler.

Funeral services were held this afternoon at 3 o'clock from Pierce Brothers Mortuary, Los Angeles. The Kettler family are the owners of the large ranch bearing their name in South Torrance.

Appointment of Committee Delayed

Appointment of Los Angeles city's committee to look into the benefits of forming a separate county for the county's largest municipality will be delayed until about August 15 or September 1, it was learned today at the Los Angeles city hall.

Mayor Frank L. Shaw, who is fostering the idea, is awaiting acceptance from a number of citizens whom he has selected to serve on the committee. Letters were dispatched to them only recently, and it is understood that several have replied that they would be unable to serve.

Assistant Postmaster Howell Retires From Active Service

At 6 o'clock last night, July 31, when the Torrance postoffice closed for the day, the active career of one of its most valued employees closed with it, and William J. Howell, assistant postmaster, turned over his duties to his successor. After 38 years in the postal service, Mr. Howell this year is placed on the retired list, under the department act limit ruling. In appreciation of his long service here and as a mark of their friendship and respect, the employees of the postoffice met in Redondo Beach recently, at the home of Mr. Howell's daughter, Mrs. Edith Buitts, and gave him a farewell party, which was climaxed by the presentation of a beautiful white gold watch and chain. The affair was a complete surprise to the honoree, but no less appreciated.

Mr. Howell, whose physical activity and mental alertness give the lie to his admitted 70 years, started his career which has taken him into many quarters of the globe as a common sailor at the early age of 16. He was born in London, England. In 1881 he landed in Cape Town, South Africa, where for a year and a half he was employed as time keeper and storekeeper on the Cape to Cairo railroad, then, just being built. He remained in the railroad service for three years, and from his records faithfully and accurately kept, the government drew much of its data for contracting the construction of other rail lines.

Various activities kept the young man busy for several years until March, 1897, when he came to the States, became a

Two Short Sections Remain to Be Completed in State Street Project

Construction of the State street project, from Redondo Beach, through Torrance to the east city limits of Long Beach, has progressed so satisfactorily that at present there are only two comparatively short sections of this important arterial highway which are not either completed

or under contract by the state division of highways.

This was the announcement this week by Julien D. Roussel, secretary of the California highway commission.

"With construction started only a year and a half ago, remarkable progress is being made on one of the most complex highway projects in the entire state," Roussel said. "Its consummation will add another great link to the already long chain of improvements on the coast highway."

"The importance of this project to the motoring public can hardly be exaggerated since it will provide an arterial by-pass for through traffic around the built-up traffic congested beach areas of Wilmington and Long Beach in the place of the series of narrow county roads and city streets over which traffic has been routed."

"At Long Beach, State street connects with the northwesterly end of the Hathaway avenue unit of the coast highway constructed about two years ago, which extends to Seal Beach. Thus with the completion of the State street project, a continuous, modern highway will extend along the coast from Oxnard to San Juan Capistrano."

"Altogether, on the eight contracts completed or under way between Redondo Beach and Long Beach, a total of \$12,000 is being spent. Construction of the balance will require another \$575,000, which, with \$100,000 allotted by the highway commission for storm drain control, will make a total of \$1,587,000 either already spent or to be expended on this 14.5 miles project, not including costs for right of way."

City Judge To Be Wed Tomorrow

Miss Margery Carriek, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Carriek, 2584 Walnut street, Lomita, and Robert M. Lessing, city judge and son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Lessing, 2909 Arlington avenue, will be married Friday evening in the St. Andrew's Episcopal church. Rev. Leslie Hill, of Redondo Beach, will perform the ceremony. Friends of the couple are invited to attend.

Miss Carriek, a native of Canada, has resided in Lomita for the past five years. She was for a time connected with the Lomita Pharmacy, but is at present employed in Gardena.

Lessing has resided in Torrance for 17 years, was graduated from Torrance high school, attended the University of California at Los Angeles, and completed a course in law at Southwestern College. He has taken a whole-hearted interest in civic affairs and was appointed city judge October 9, 1934.

After the ceremony the couple will leave for a trip to Fish Canyon.

Airplane In Test Flight Disappears

Mystery surrounds the fate of the new U. S. army plane which took off from Mines Field, near Inglewood, Tuesday afternoon with Lieut. Arthur H. Sauer, Jr., as pilot for a test flight. The plane was last seen flying over the Palos-Verdes hills, in the direction of Catalina Island. When the ship failed to return at 5 o'clock, scouting planes were sent to look for it, and the search was continued yesterday, participated in by air-planes, coast guard cutters, and civilian forces. The plane carried gasoline for only four hours' flight. The new ship, a Northrop low wing monoplane, was designed as a pursuit ship, and was capable of making 235 miles an hour.

Battery Case Draws Elite of Torrance Folk

Venire of 36 Jurors Exhausted and New Panel Drawn This Morning

Summoning of a venire of 36 prospective jurors in the case of The People vs. Clay T. Thomas, which was set for 10 o'clock this morning in the city court, gave the city hall council chambers the aspect of a "Who's Who" in Torrance. Prominent citizens, club women and society leaders, occupied all the available seating space. By 10:30 o'clock the attorney for the defense, Albert Isen, had exhausted his reservoir of challenges and the venire was likewise exhausted. Court took a recess until more jurors could be subpoenaed.

Those who were called to the jury box were L. G. Barkdull, Mrs. Rose Conley, Mrs. Ruth B. Ward, Jack Abramson, Edward Strangard, Sam Levy, Mrs. Emily Warner, Robert Bartlett, Mrs. Hazel Fossum, Frank Spoon, Frank Buffington, Henry D. Carter, Mrs. Harriet Leach, Mrs. Edith Carter, Mrs. Marie Marsteller, Mrs. Velma Schultz, Mrs. Martha Attebury, Mrs. Olive Mae Smith, Mrs. Lecl Kerber, Felix Winkler, Mrs. Josephine Buxton, Fred A. Harder, Albert Schatz, DeKalb Spurlin and Mrs. Elizabeth Mahony. All were excused, except Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. Ward, Abramson, Strangard, Buffington, Carter, Mrs. Kasper, Mrs. Schultz, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Kerber, Harder and Schatz, when the venire was exhausted.

On resumption of the selection of the jury, Mrs. Schultz and Fred Harder of the original panel were excused, and L. J. Pierce, O. A. Davis and John Selby, were accepted, completing the jury. Testimony for the prosecution was taken from Myer, who is foreman of a sheet mill crew, his immediate superior, Eugene Cooper and Henry Melby, 311 Arlington avenue, who was a witness to part of the affair.

Myer testified that after an argument in his office at the Columbia Steel, Thomas met him on Arlington avenue as he was going home from work, swung at him, and as he stooped to lay a parcel of eggs on the ground, pushed him over and beat him about the face with a hard object, which he thought to be either a rock or a piece of brick. Two black eyes and a lacerated nose resulted. Myer stated that Thomas then assisted him to Thomas's coupe, pushed him in and took him to his home near by on Sartori avenue.

The prosecution had completed taking testimony at 11:45 and the defense began giving its version of the affair.

Thomas is charged with battery on the person of Myer, the alleged offense being committed on July 16. City Attorney C. T. Rippey handled the prosecution of the case.

Receives News of Death of Sister

A. C. Stamps, 1633 Acacia, received the sad news Friday of the death of his sister, Mrs. Onan Rich, of La Habra, who passed away that day at a hospital in Monrovia. Funeral services were held from White's Mortuary, Whittier, on Monday and the remains were shipped to Sulphur, Oklahoma, for interment.

Huge Quantity of Steel Will Be Required To Complete Aqueduct

Twenty-five hundred railway freight cars loaded with steel—or a quantity equal to the total tonnage of this type of material ordered in the entire United States for the first five months of 1935! Such is the steel order being called for by the Metropolitan water district for use in the construction of the Colorado river aqueduct. Most of the steel, it was pointed out, will be used for reinforcing concrete structures along the 392 miles of main aqueduct and distributing lines.

Specifications for this construction material have been prepared by the district, and bids for this enormous quantity—500,000,000 pounds—will be received in the offices of the district.

Fabrication and handling of the two hundred million pounds of steel for the Colorado river aqueduct will give tremendous impetus to one of the country's major basic industries, and will provide additional employment for many hundreds of men, it was pointed out.

According to the specifications under which bids will be received on this huge order, bidders are given the alternative of submitting prices on portions of the entire quantity.

The full 200,000,000 pounds would be sufficient to meet all aqueduct reinforcement needs for the remaining years of the aqueduct construction period. It is provided that bidders may quote prices f. o. b. plant or delivered to railroad sidings along the aqueduct route.

The material required includes rail steel, hard-billet steel, intermediate steel-cut and bent, and steel fabricated into hoops. These various types of steel will be used for reinforcing the concrete lining of aqueduct tunnels, the reinforcement of concrete siphons, conduits, and canals, and various other structures.

Prospects for increased production in the local steel mills is seen in the anticipation that the Columbia Steel Company will receive at least a major portion of the contract.

Orchestra Members Hear Fine Program

Thirty-seven members and friends of Torrance Symphony orchestra attended Hollywood Bowl concert Tuesday night to hear the Hollywood Bowl Symphony under the French conductor, Pierre Monteux, and Nina Koshetz, soprano soloist, in a program of Russian music. The evening was considered a great success by all in attendance and well worth the preparation and effort necessary. Torrance Symphony orchestra has, contrary to the tradition of all amateur-musical organizations, continued rehearsals throughout the summer in order to be able to present concerts early in the fall instead of waiting until mid-winter. This trip was planned as recreational reward for the faithful attendance of the members of the group.

Death Of Mrs. Kettler

Sets Up New Status In the Matter of Obtaining Eshelman Av. Right of Way

Just what effect the recent death of Mrs. Amalie Kettler will have on the procurement of deeds to land in the Kettler ranch for street purposes, which deeds have been promised for some time, is a question which will be investigated tomorrow when City Attorney Charles T. Rippey and City Engineer Frank Leonard visit the attorney for the Kettler heirs in Los Angeles.

For some time the city has been trying to obtain this concession from the Kettler heirs in order to widen Eshelman avenue, pave the street through the ranch and connect it up with the extension of Cabellito avenue to make a through highway from this city to South Lomita.

Negotiations had progressed to the point where the consent of the heirs had been obtained, the city engineer instructed to prepare the deed and send it to the Kettler attorney for his scrutiny. This was done several weeks ago and the city has been marking time ever since awaiting the return of the signed document.

With the passing of Mrs. Kettler, it would seem that further legal difficulties will now have to be adjusted, as her removal from the circle of heirs places a different situation before them.

Mr. Rippey and Mr. Leonard expect to take up the matter with the attorney tomorrow, and hope to receive some assurance that the matter of the deed can be speedily adjusted.

Loaned Car Fails To Return to Owner

Homer G. Hays, 1221 El Prado, loaned his car last Thursday to Clyde G. McFadden, 129 St. Joseph street, Long Beach, to go to Bakersfield. He told city police Monday, McFadden promised to return the car Sunday. Neither he nor the car had put in an appearance yesterday, and Hays secured a warrant for McFadden's apprehension.

Christian Church Is Incorporated

Articles of incorporation for the First Christian church of Torrance, were filed with the county clerk this week by Attorney Frank G. Tyrrell. Directors are listed as Scott R. Ludlow, William Gasbald, Irvin C. Ross, Mrs. Everett Travell and John Waugh, all of Torrance. There is no capital stock.

Program	
TORRANCE MUNICIPAL BAND	
Sunday, August 4th, 1935	
Commencing at 2 P. M. at City Park Bandstand	
John T. Watson, conductor.	
March—Colossus of Columbia	Alexander
Overture—Orpheus	Offenbach
Waltz—Sobre Las Olas	Rosas
Selection of Old Hymns	Barnhouse
Descriptive—A Hunting Scene	Bucalossi
Intermission	
Selection—The Red Mill	Herbert
Intermezzo—Wedding of the Rose	Jessell
Ballet—Music From William Tell	Rossini
Gems of Stephen Foster	Foster